

Application No. 09/273,021

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of preparing a patent application with a computer comprising the steps of:

 storing a document template in a computer program which contains headings equivalent to:

 "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 1) Field of the Invention

 2) Description of the Prior Art

 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

 CLAIMS

 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE”;

 storing a page break immediately before the “CLAIMS” heading in the computer program;

 storing a page break immediately before the “ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE” heading in the computer program;

 storing a footer in the computer program for displaying the attorney file identification on every page of the application;

 composing by a user an independent claim in the computer program ending in a clause beginning with the words “characterized by” and reciting and isolating the [patentable] novelty and preceded by at least one clause reciting prior art elements to

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the extent necessary to support and provide antecedent basis for the “characterized by” clause;

drafting claims in the computer ultimately dependent upon the independent claim for successively more specifically defining the patentable novelty; and

characterized by storing a duplicate set of all of the claims in the computer program, and creating the description by retrieving the duplicate set of claims under the heading “DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT”, searching for each occurrence of the word “said” in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, programming the computer program to replace the word “said” with the word “the” in the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification, and editing the duplicate set of claims copied into the specification into grammatically correct sentence structure including adding verbs, and assigning reference numerals for the first time by the steps of storing the element names of the elements in the order recited in the duplicate set of claims, storing successive numbers beginning with a number above the highest Figure number to identify the respective element names, and searching for each occurrence of each respective element name in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims, replacing each respective element name with that respective element name followed by successive ones of said numbers to provide identifying reference numerals for the element names in the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims and automatically shifting the reference numerals in response to changing the order of occurrence in the duplicate set of claims.

Claim 2. (Previously Cancelled)

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3. **(Previously Presented)** The method as set forth in claim 1 including the steps of storing a duplicate of the independent claim in the computer program, retrieving the duplicate independent claim under the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES", and editing the duplicate independent claim copied under the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES" into grammatically correct sentence structure including changing "said" to "the" and adding verbs without adding further description whereby the "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES" is commensurate in scope to the independent claim.

Claims 4–9. **(Previously Cancelled)**

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of storing each reference numeral recited in the "CLAIMS" and in the "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" within parenthesis "()", searching and replacing each such reference number in the "CLAIMS" and in the "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" with the corresponding stored reference number within parentheses "()".

Claims 11 – 18. **(Previously Cancelled)**

19. **(Currently Amended)** A method of preparing a patent application with a computer characterized by performing the following steps:

 storing a document template in a computer program which contains headings equivalent to,